



DIRECTORATE OF INTELLIGENCE

## SPOT COMMENTARY

27 February 1991  
1500 EST

Iraq-Kuwait: Situation Report #612

### Military Developments

FOOTNOTES

### Iraqi Ground Forces: Down for the Count

As described by General Schwartzkopf earlier this afternoon, organized Iraqi resistance in the Kuwait theater collapsed today; the Republican Guard sustained major losses. Surviving Iraqi forces continue to try to retreat, but have no major escape route open. Coalition air attacks have destroyed or badly damaged all permanent bridges across the Shatt Al Arab, from north of Basrah to the Gulf and US ground forces block all western exits,

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Political Developments

**Saddam Offers More Concessions**

Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq Aziz notified the UN today that Iraq had "undertaken" the withdrawal from Kuwait as called for in UN Security Council Resolution 660 and accepted Resolution 662 declaring the annexation of Kuwait null and void. Iraq also accepted Resolution 674, which says Iraq is liable for damages to foreigners or their property resulting from the invasion and occupation of Kuwait. These acceptances were made conditional on an immediate cease-fire and the annulment of other resolutions which imposed an economic embargo and trade sanctions on Iraq.

Comment: Saddam is growing increasingly desperate and probably hopes that by making these latest concessions, he can secure a cease-fire and halt the destruction of his army. He may also hope Soviet and UN involvement, combined with an outpouring of support from the Arab "man on the street," will help him save face and avoid admitting total defeat.

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#### UK Developments

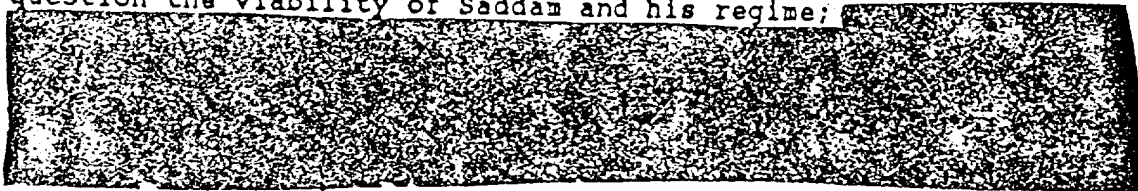
London announced that Iraq's latest offer to comply with two of the 12 UN resolutions is not good enough. Meanwhile, Prime Minister Major said the British Ambassador to Kuwait will return to his post as early as tomorrow.

Comment: Most European countries share Britain's view that Iraq must comply with all UN resolutions.

#### USSR Handling Fences with the Coalition

A Soviet presidential spokesman this week stressed Moscow's support for all twelve of the UN resolutions and that the USSR would work with the US to reach a consensus in the UN Security Council. He said that the Iraqi people would have to decide who would lead the country; and its form of government. He also hinted that Moscow might be willing to send troops to the region as part of a UN observer or peacekeeping force. Soviet Defense Minister Yazov, who has strongly criticized coalition military activities, stated yesterday that Foreign Minister Aziz had made unacceptable demands while in Moscow last week, that Saddam had stalled on negotiations, and that Iraqi defeat was inevitable.

Comment: The Soviets probably fear that their recent peace efforts may have damaged relations with the US and that the coalition will exclude the USSR from a postwar settlement. Contributing Soviet troops to a peacekeeping force would help the Soviets gain a role in a settlement while allowing them to bolster their claim as a peacemaker. Moscow also may now question the viability of Saddam and his regime;



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### Japan Says the Check is in the Mail

The Diet lower house budget committee today approved the supplementary budget containing Tokyo's promised \$9 billion aid package for the multinational forces. Meanwhile, the opposition Komeito--whose votes are key to the legislation's passage in the upper house--said yesterday it accepted Prime Minister Kaifu's promise that the government will not restore the \$770 million it is cutting in defense programs to finance the aid.

Comment: Favorable prospects for the measure, particularly Komeito's positive stance, suggest Tokyo could begin disbursing the funds before the Japanese fiscal year ends on 31 March.

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